

Fundamentals of the Faith
Part – 18 of 18
Surviving as a Christian
Jude 1-3
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show how we can survive as a Christian today.

Intro:

1. The Christian life is a life of survival.
2. How can we survive? Today, we'll attempt to answer that question.

I. Youth surviving as a Christian

A. We have failed to teach spiritual values

1. Adults and youth alike can be destroyed because of their lack of Bible knowledge (**Hosea 4:6**).
2. We must not make Bible knowledge second, third or fourth on the ladder of knowledge but first priority. Praise our children for good grades and praise them for memory verses. Praise them for completing their homework and for reading their Bibles.
3. Which will get you into heaven, knowing science & algebra...or knowing God's word?

B. Someone did their job better than, and before, we did ours.

1. We must teach our kids that Christians must live in the world, but we are not to be like the world (**Rom 12:2**). Some teachers/instructors do have their own "hidden agenda", but not all of them.
 - a. After all, not all Christian schools are teaching the truth either, therefore it is up to us to instill in our children a strong love for God's word and not the blindly accept what others have said.
2. Are children are going to be taught things, we must decide what they are going to be taught and have plan for when others attempt to teach them something contrary to the Christian faith.
3. I am not promoting home-schooling or public schools, we simply have to make sure that are children learn that we are Christians first and what God says is right. Children can be taught error at school and at home, not all home-schoolers after all are Christians.

C. Parents who have served as faulty role models

1. We cannot expect to be taken seriously by our children if we, by our example, leave them with the impression that they are to "do as we **say**, not as we **do**."
2. Parents who live **unrighteous** and expect their children to live **righteously**, we sometimes say "monkey see, monkey do," when children mimic our actions.
3. Sometimes we do not seem to realize that we teach our children in two ways:
 - a. by what we **say** through oral instruction
 - b. by what we **do** through physical action.

D. Parents have an incorrect view of God & His Word

1. We cannot teach, what we do not know.
2. Example of poor view of God & His word

a. As a too common illustration a parent was having trouble with their sixteen-year-old son had begun to date (with his parents' permission and foreknowledge) a girl who had a widely known (and well-deserved) reputation as being promiscuous, and the relationship had very quickly become sexual in nature. When another concerned parent inquired about what they planned to do about the situation, the response was that it always had been their policy to "respect her children's privacy and not interfere in their lives" and to simply "let go and let God." Her point was this: she did not have to act on her child's behalf because God would.

Is this scriptural?

- a. Parents are to guide their children and the children are to listen & obey (**Eph 6:1**).
- b. Fathers are to "bring their children up in the training and admonition of the Lord (**Eph 6:4b**). Literally meaning train them, (admonition) encourage and rebuke them according to the ways of the Lord.

E. Parental priorities are not in order

1. If our children are to survive as faithful members, we must first have our priorities right, which means God first, in EVERYTHING (**MT 6:33**).
2. If we seek other things first, so will our children.
3. Let us not sacrifice anyone, our children or ourselves to the god of lies and deceit.
4. Let us instead remember the question of Christ in **Mt 16:26**, what will it profit?

II. Adults surviving as a Christian

A. Some won't survive because they neglect their own spiritual welfare

1. Some have neglected the "great salvation" (**Heb 2:3**).
2. When we neglect the spiritual food one needs to be a strong & faithful Christian, a weak Christian or unfaithful is just around the corner.
3. No other person or "outside force" causes this type of loss of faith, instead it is occurs as result of their own careless neglect.

B. Some won't survive because of persecution

1. Christ warns us about stumbling because of persecutions. Some are classified as the stony places. Those who will stumble during persecutions (**Mt 13:20-21**).
2. When we fail to realize that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will** suffer persecution" (**2 Tim 3:12**), we often fail to remain faithful, we fail to survive.

C. Some won't survive because they fall prey to false teaching.

1. We must take heed how we hear (**Lk 8:18a**), and must be careful to compare all that they hear to the Word of God (**Acts 17:11**).
2. Christ rebuked the Sadducees because of their ignorance and said that their many errors is because of such ignorance (**Mt 22:23-33**).

Conc:

1. If we are going to survive being a Christian we must prepare our children, youth age & ourselves as adults.
2. Surviving as a Christian is not a walk in the park, but, we can survive and we can do so by faithfully following God & His Word.

Hear

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Believe

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever + in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Repent

Luke 13:3

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Confess

Rom 10:9 — Rom 10:10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Be baptized

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

Remain Faithful

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.